Survey for railway line from Lanjigarh to Junagarh

2543. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS : SHRI MANMOHAN MATHUR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey was conducted to lay a Railway line from Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh and its further extension upto Ambaguda (Jeypore) in the South Eastern Railway Zone;

(b) if so, whether any economic feasibility assessment was made, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Planning Commission was consulted in this matter and if so, what is their opinion on this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rate of return with Alumina Plant will be 15.4%.

(c) The Planning Commission had approved the proposal subject to issue of letter of intent for the proposed Alumina Plant at Bhawanipatna.

Begging at Old Delhi Railway Station

2544. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the begging nuisance at the old Delhi Railway Station; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposed to take to check the entry of beggars on the platforms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Begging in station premises and in trains is a punishable offence under the Railway Act. Besides routine checks to prevent entry of beggars in station premises of old Delhi Railway Station, surprise checks are conducted jointly by Railway Station Staff, Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police personnel to apprehend and prosecute beggars. During January, 92 to November, 92, 635 beggars were apprehended at old Delhi Railway Station and were dealt with in accordance with the Law.

B. G. Line from Kolayat to Phalodi

2545. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in order to inter connect Western Rajasthan as a B. G. circuit and to open up the Desert-Area as well as the I.G.N.P. Command Area; it is essential that the Bikaner-Kolayat line should be extended upto Phalodi by construction of a new B. G. line from Kolayat to Phalodi; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far in this direction and whether such proposal is likely to be taken up during the year 1992-93 or during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) While Government appreciates that a connection for Kolayat to Phalodi would open up the desert area to the I.G.N.P. command area, constraint of resources precludes consideration of this new line proposal for the present.

Secret ballot of Railway workforce to decide All India strike

2546. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the Economic Times dated 17th November, 1992 to the effect that ten lakh employees of the fifteen lakh Indian Railway workforce would participate in a secret ballot next month to decide for an all India strike to press for their long standing demands; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avert this strike ?